

The Disciple

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Becoming a Child of the King

Sermon Series on James

(Parts 8 & 9)

James 4:11 - 5:6 and James 5:7-12
We continue to study in the Book of James and be guided by his directives. As James' instructions come to a close, he continues to speak to us (his audience of Christians) with candor and love.

James implores us to keep from judging our neighbor. If you are standing as a judge of the law, you are not keeping the law. There is only one lawgiver. In verse 12, we are presented with this truth, "Only he who made the law can rightly judge among us. He alone decides to save us or destroy us. So, what right do you have to judge or criticize others?" It is a reminder of the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." A reminder that beseeches us to forgive others, even when we are not asked.

James reminds us that we must be careful. We must watch against false prophets. No one knows when the Lord is coming.

James knows how easy it is to fall into judgment. But he also knows that we must become adept at evaluating each situation. For as we all are unique, each case is also unique, and therefore, James asks us to look to the small things, the details. James reminds us that the Holy Spirit finds love, caring, and compassion in the details. The Holy Spirit works through the details.

At the end of Chapter 4, James admonishes us to keep away from arrogance, even as we look to the future. "How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is as uncertain as the morning fog—now you see it; soon it is gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we shall live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise, you will be bragging about your own plans, and such self-confidence never pleases God.



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

We don't know what the future holds, yet we continue to make plans with no thought to God. We think we know how our life is supposed to unfold, yet when it fails to meet our expectations, then we go to God, carrying our arrogance around us like a cloak and asking, "Why."

We never consider the plan that God has in mind. We wait until the end to surrender. James suggests that we humble ourselves in the beginning, surrendering to God's will before our own expectations and plans take shape.

In our lives today, we could create reminders to surrender by merely placing a white cloth or piece of material in our sight. This could remind us that we must submit.

And in our lifestyle, James reminds us that we are creating our own demise. The things of earthly value will be nothing but waste to us in our eternal life. The items that are valued in our world will not be valued as we reach God. It is the intangibles that will be of value. How you spoke about another, how you made someone feel, how you gave importance to those who feel unworthy, how you lift up those in despair. Again and again, James implores us not to forget the pieces of truth that Jesus left for us to act upon.

Are we ready to humble ourselves in front of the Lord? Do we have the patience necessary to wait on the Lord? Who can we use as an example to show us how to endure the troubles of the world? And how can we learn to tolerate our discomfort as we wait?

As James' instructions are ending, he shows the crossroads to the Christian audience. James states that the judge is coming. We are to wait patiently. We are to learn how to hold on, to calm our racing minds and anxieties. Develop a tolerance for discomfort.

James holds up the Old Testament prophets and Job as examples to the modern man. The prophets struggled. They were tortured, frustrated, and suffered.

In this middle part of the 5th Chapter, it becomes clear that suffering will not cease just because we follow Christ. In fact, suffering may become even worse and more persistent. James tells us to hold our anger and to develop a tolerance for discomfort. And he means all types of discomfort. From physical suffering to anxiety, to despair, to frustration, we have to teach ourselves to endure. Endure when people hurt you.

James says it matters how you respond to the troubles in your life. We are continually reaching a crossroad where we must choose. Will we grow and become better, or will we become bitter and wither.

If we can try to do three things in our lives, the struggle may become more manageable. Some applications are:

- Bring your anxiety to God
- Humble yourself before the Lord and others
- Believe that we are being made beautiful in the Lord.

By focusing on these applications, we can be more secure on our journey to become children of the King.



Find all our sermons, radio broadcasts, newsletters, and other worship resources on our website at louisachristian-church.org

A Meditation

FROM ERIC PURCELL

One thing I have enjoyed during COVID is a phone app I downloaded which has James Earl Jones reading the New Testament. His baritone, deep voice is wonderful to fall asleep to, but more importantly, I have listened and been inspired by parts of the Bible I hadn't always appreciated before. For example, Matthew, Chapter 1: Also known as "the begats", Jones methodically recites the lineage of Jesus Christ. It reminds me that despite all of our differences in this turbulent time, we are all connected through our relationship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If we remember nothing else in the months and years to come, I pray we remember this.

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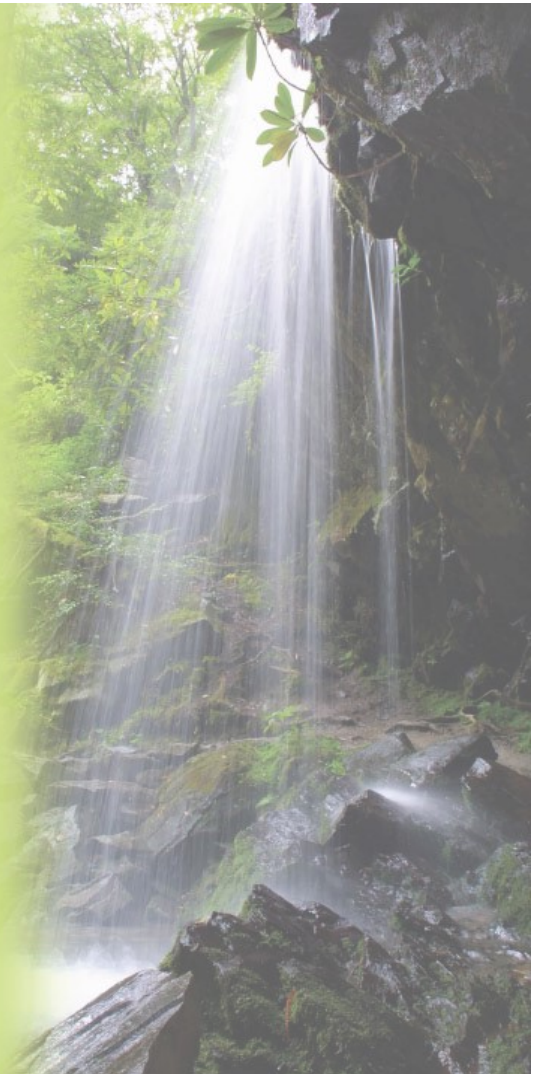
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your support.

What You're Not

You are not your age,
Nor the size of clothes you wear,
You are not a weight,
Or the colour of your hair.
You are not your name,
Or the dimples in your cheeks,
You are all the books you read,
And all the words you speak,
You are your croaky morning voice,
And the smiles you try to hide,
You're the sweetness in your laughter,
And every tear you've cried,
You're the songs you sing so loudly,
When you know you're all alone,
You're the places that you've been to,
And the one that you call home,
You're the things that you believe in,
And the people that you love,
You're the photos in your bedroom,
And the future you dream of,
You're made of so much beauty,
But it seems that you forgot,
When you decided that you were defined,
By all the things you're not.

~e.h



Gratitude Calendar

Use these prompts to help you focus on gratitude as we move from summer to fall

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Who is someone who inspires you?	Who made you smile today and why?	Name one blessing from today	What is one thing one of your family members did today that made you happy?	Who's friendship are you thankful for and why?
Who was kind to you today & why?	What made you smile when you looked outside and why?	What prayer was answered recently?	Who did you help today & how?	What food are you grateful for?	What moment this week are you most grateful for?	Who are you grateful for?
What did you enjoy doing today?	What book are you most grateful for and why?	What tool do you use daily that you're grateful for and why?	What scripture are you most grateful for and why?	Name one thing your pet did today that made you smile.	What ability do you have that you are grateful for?	What TV show makes you smile and why?
What season are you most grateful for and why?	What comfort of home do you enjoy and why?	What moment of the week are you most grateful for?	What song makes you smile and why?	What in nature are you most grateful for and why?	Who do you turn to when you need a hug?	What tradition are you most grateful for and why?
What is an act of kindness someone showed you?	What is something you take for granted?	What is a modern invention that you're thankful for?	What is a favorite thing you like about your work?	What is a favorite activity you enjoy doing?	What is a favorite website that you are thankful for?	What is something that makes your life easier?
What is a favorite food that you enjoy?	What is the best thing that happened this week?	What is a favorite quote or saying that makes you happy?	What is something that you recently accomplished?	What is something in your community that you are thankful for?	What is a difficult experience that you learned from?	What are you grateful for about your home?



Thanks be to
God for his
incredible
gift!

**2 Corinthians
9:15**